Issue of spectrum

1810. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Department of Telecommunications has written to Prime Minister on the issue of auction of spectrum;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that some foreign firms including Rookie Telecom and S. Tel have offered voluntarily to pay Rs. 6,000 crore to DoT for allocation of spectrum;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reasons that Government do not want to auction spectrum to telecom operators?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Communications have been sent to Prime Minister on issues related to licencing and allocation of spectrum aspects which includes, among others, licensing procedures, enhancement of subscribers linked spectrum allocation criteria, spectrum charges, use of dual technology by telecom service providers etc.

(c) and (d) M/s. S. Tel Ltd. in their letter have stated among others, that "S. Tel is of the view that the policy that was evolved when the industry was at its, will not serve the public purpose now, when the industry is among the most advanced. Consistent with its knowledge and understanding of the business of telecom and the high value of spectrum, S. Tel comes forward voluntarily to pay additional revenue share to the extent of Rs. 6000 crores to the DoT, over and above the spectrum charges revenue share payable as per the existing policy, over a period of 10 years from the date of the spectrum allotment. This will bring into effect of prioritization model, which will fully subserve the larger public interest."

(e) Taking into account the TRAI recommendations, the Government has decided not to auction the spectrum for 2G services at present and to grant new Unified Access Services (UAS) Licences as per the existing guidelines.

Plan for network of communication technology

1811. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any strategy or action plan to connect the nation with a network of communication technologies using optic fibre and wireless connections and providing facility to interact in 22 local languages has been launched; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) The Government of India, Department of Information Technology has not launched any specific strategy or action plan to connect the nation with a network of communication technologies using optic fibre and wireless connection and providing facility to interact in 22 local languages has been launched.